

Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 DHA-02 SSM-03 /095 W

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R 011317Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6620

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LE, XF

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS ON LEBANON AND ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL

REF: CAIRO 11691

1. PRESS REPORTS ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 4 WILL BE LIMITED TO TWO TOPICS: LEBANON AND ARAB SUMMIT. SYG RIAD AND HIS REP DR. AL-KHULI WILL PRESENT REPORTS, BUT NO DETAILS GIVEN AND SPECULATION AVOIDED ON ANY PUTATIVE AL PLAN. BAHRAINI FONMIN WILL PRESIDE AND PLO REP WILL BE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT HEAD QADDUMI. AHAM "LEARNED" THAT MEETING WAS POSTPONED FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO SEPTEMBER 4 NOT, AS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, AT KUWAITI REQUEST, BUT BECAUSE LIBYA DID NOT WISH MEETING OCCUR ON ITS NATIONAL DAY.

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2. PLO'S QADDUMI IS KEEPING BUSY MEETING PROMINENT

EGYPTIANS AND AL OFFICIALS. HIS MEETING PREVIOUS DAY WITH FONMIN FAHMY GIVES RISE TO EDITORIALS IN ALL THREE MAJOR PAPERS UNDERLING GOE-PLO DETERMINATION RESTORE NORMAL CONDITIONS IN LEBANON DESPITE "OUTBIDDING" BY DAMASCUS AND TRIPOLI. AKHBAR IS PARTICULAR BITTER, CLAIMING THAT SINCE SYRIAN AND LIBYAN REGIMES ARE POLITICALLY BANKRUPT, THEY HAVE RESORTED TO MILITARY ADVENTURES ABROAD AND POLICE REPRESSION AT HOME TO SAVE THEMSELVES. "SYRIAN ALAWI BA'ATH" IS EXCORIATED FOR ITS DESIRE REJUVENATE OLD "IMPERIALISTIC" DREAM OF A GREATER SYRIA.

3. A HUMHURIYYA COMMENTARY SIGNED BY THE NEWSPAPER'S CHAIRMAN, A MUSLIM, OFFERS SOME HISTORIC EXAMPLES OF THE "SOLID AND TRADITIONAL NATIONAL UNITY OF MUSLIMS AND COPTS IN EGYPT." WITHOUT DRAWING OBVIOUS PARALLEL WITH CONFESSIONALISM IN LEBANON, COMMENTARY EXTOLS COPTIC CONTRIBUTION TO EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION AND COPTIC GOOD WILL TO THEIR MUSLIM BROTHERS. MESSAGE IS CLEAR THOUGH IMPLICIT: EGYPTIAN MUSLIMS MUST PROTECT THEIR CHRISTIAN COMPATRIOTS FROM NATURAL FEAR THAT RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION MIGHT OVERFLOW FROM LEBANON INTO EGYPT.
EILTS

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